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Maria Minon, M.D. Appointed to First 5 California Commission

Children's health expert to help lead efforts for state's children and families

Sacramento, CA – First 5 California announced today that Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Maria Minon, M.D. to the First 5 California commission. Minon will become the seventh member of the commission, which supports a wide-range of vital services for young children and their families across California.

"We are proud to welcome Maria Minon, whose commitment to children's health is evident through her established career in pediatric care," said Hector Ramirez, chair of the commission. "I am certain First 5 California will benefit from her expertise, and California's children will reap the rewards."

Presently, Minon serves as the chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs for the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Since 2001, she has also served as a volunteer associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. For nearly two decades before that, she was a pediatrician in private practice in Santa Ana, California.

Minon is a member of the Latino Health Access Board of Directors and a board member of the Orange County Ronald McDonald House. In addition, she is a former member of First 5 California's School Readiness Workgroup.

"First 5 California's primary goal is to see all children in California get the best start in life," said Kris Perry, executive director of First 5 California. "Maria Minon will certainly play a key role in helping us achieve this and many other goals for our commission."

Minon currently resides in Villa Park.

About First 5 California

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, childcare and other programs for expectant parents and children up to age 5. For more information please visit <http://www.ccfc.ca.gov>.

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